

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2025
Second Year, Second Semester
Department of English
Classical Comedy

Time: Two Hours

Full Marks: 30

Answer any three questions. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Discuss the plausible origins of comedy with close reference to Aristotle's brief remarks in the *Poetics*.
2. Examine the contribution of Hellenistic scholarship in the preservation and dissemination of comedy.
3. "Metis is a type of intelligence and of thought, a way of knowing; it implies a complex but very coherent body of mental attitudes and intellectual behaviour which combine flair, wisdom, forethought, subtlety of mind, deception, resourcefulness, vigilance, opportunism, various skills, and experience acquired over the years." How far is this statement applicable to Dicaeopolis in Aristophanes' *Acharnians*?
4. In Old Comedy human agency is the predominant precipitator of plot development. Do you agree? Discuss with close reference to Aristophanes' *Lysistrata*.
5. Critically discuss the "Arbitration Scene" in Menander's *Epitrepontes* and its contribution towards the denouement of the plot.
6. Examine how Plautus manipulates the master-slave power dynamics in *Pseudolus*.
7. Discuss how Terence's *Eunuchus* explores the performative nature of gender through the character of Chaerea. Do you think the ending of the play reinforces traditional Roman patriarchal norms?
